

In the Drawings:

Figure 17A is amended as shown in the Replacement Sheet, changing the reference Δ to Δ_L .

REMARKS

This submission is responsive to the final Office Action mailed December 1, 2006. Accordingly the submission is accompanied by a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 together with the required fee.

Amendments to Specification

In the amendments to the specification, it is assumed that the previous amendments were not entered, so that changes to the original text are shown.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 30 - 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite; particularly with regard to two issues: (1) the clarity of the recitation of “respective lines that bisect cutting edges” and (2) whether the outer peripheral contour is of the planar front side or the planar backside of the knife.

With respect to the first issue, claim 30 recites “respective lines bisecting said cutting edges extending from respective points of intersection therewith to respective centers of curvature thereof diverge from one another.” The following is a parsing of this language.

1. The “respective lines” are respective to the cutting edges. So, for example, where there are four cutting edges, there are four respective lines such as shown in Figure 15A.
2. The lines bisect their respective cutting edges. These conditions are also shown by way of example in Figure 15A.

3. The lines intersect their respective cutting edges. This is shown in Figure 15A at the point PI.
3. The lines extend to the centers of curvature of the respective cutting edges. This is shown in Figure 15A at the point Pf.
4. The lines are defined as extending *from* the intersection with the cutting edge (e.g., the point PI) *to* the center of curvature (e.g., the point Pf). This is to indicate directionality, e.g., that of the arrow-heads shown in Figure 15A. With respect to this directionality, the lines diverge as shown in Figure 15A, in contrast to Figure 15B.

It is respectfully submitted that the language clearly and definitely recites the desired condition or circumstance, i.e., a condition like that of Figure 15A and unlike that of Figure 15B.

With regard to the second issue, the claims recite: “the knife having a planar front side, a spaced apart, planar back side and a beveled face connecting said front and back sides at respective outer peripheral contours thereof, wherein the outer peripheral contour of said front side includes one of said cutting edges, wherein, in a cross-section of the knife taken in a plane perpendicular to the plane of said front side and to the peripheral outer contour thereof”

According to this language, both the front and back sides have outer peripheral contours, the outer peripheral contour of the front side includes the cutting edges, and the recited cross-sectional plane is perpendicular to the front side and the outer peripheral contour *thereof*, i.e., the outer peripheral contour of the front side. In an attempt to remove any doubt about the meaning intended, the claims are amended to replace “thereof” with “of said front side.”

Section 102 Rejections

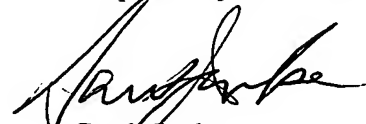
Claims 30 - 35, 38, and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Wagstaff, U.S. Patent No. 5,779,167 ("Wagstaff"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Wagstaff discloses a knife 37 that has a curved body. Col. 5, line 67. Due to this curvature, the front and back sides of the knife (using the terminology of the claims) do not meet the claims requirement of being planar. On the other hand, the cutting edge 31 (compare Figures 5 and 15) is straight and does not meet the claims requirement of being curvilinear. For at least both of these reasons, the claims are not anticipated by Wagstaff.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 30 - 35, 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagstaff. The rejections are premised on an allegation that it would have been obvious to provide the claimed attack relief angle. The rejections are therefore moot because, as explained above, Wagstaff fails for more fundamental reasons to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For all of the above reasons, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to allow the claims and pass the case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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